

SHE SPEAKS WITH HER EYES

We look up at the Virgin. We gaze upon her silently. I ask you tonight to lend me your imaginations for just a few minutes. I want you to be where Our Lady is. I want you to imagine that you are Our Lady. Imagine yourself being where Mary is, looking out upon all of you.

The holy tilma (or cloak) of Saint Juan Diego is studied more and more, using the methods of science. And great attention has been given to the eyes of the Virgin of Guadeloupe as portrayed on the tilma. In the iris of the eye, under great microscopic magnification, the shapes of thirteen individuals, so very tiny, can be seen in each of the Virgin's eyes. These persons are the people who were with Bishop Zumarraga That day. It was in the bishop's residence when the tilma, full of Spanish roses not Mexican roses, was opened before him. That was the very first time that anyone ever saw the picture of Our Lady revealed on Juan's cloak that day in one thousand five hundred and thirty-one (1531).

That is what Our Lady saw that day. She was in the room although no one knew it. What her eyes saw was captured forever in the image on the cloak. In her eyes. But only in great miniature. Mary herself is portrayed as a young Aztec maiden with child, pregnant with the Divine child. She carries Jesus within her. She is to bring Jesus to birth in this world. And she will bring Jesus to birth in this world.

In this moment, she looks out on us, gathered here before her and silently, with her eyes, she speaks a message. "My dear children. I bring you the greatest gift this world has ever been given. He is your Savior. He is your Lord. He is your Master. He is the child. He is peace. I give him to you. He lives in me—under my heart. I have made a shrine of my heart. I give him to you so that you too can make a shrine of your heart. He not only lives in me—the Christ. He lives in each one who invites him into his heart, into her heart. He is the God who always comes to us."

Make a shrine in your heart for him. Give him a place to live, to abide, to dwell within you. Then, in your turn, in your way, give Christ to others. You will not lose Christ in the giving. Remember, the Father did not lose his Son in the giving. Be Christ for others. Feed them with your love as he fed his people with his own love. That is the way love grows.

For centuries before Mary appeared in Mexico many people were killed for sacrifices to appease the violent gods. Their hearts would be torn from their chests. Instead, with Mary there is a new way. She invites us to place our hearts in her hands without in any way doing violence to our hearts but gently. So that she can present them to her son—in peace. Thus the violence was transformed into forgiving love—for all the world. And forever.

May the Lord bless us today and give us his peace.